

GETHSEMANE

By Don Krider

I want you to close your eyes for just a moment and picture an empty tomb. All the powers of hell could not keep Jesus there. Amen? Thank God right now that all the bands and powers of darkness were broken asunder, and He arose again and is alive forevermore. Hallelujah! Lord, we thank you right now. Praise God! Lord, we thank You for the proclamation that morning at that tomb, when the angel announced, "He is not here. He is risen." They were seeking out the Lord among the dead but He had risen. The tomb is empty. Hallelujah! Glory to God! Lord, we rejoice. Hallelujah!

Father, as we come to the Word of the living God, we thank you again and again that the tomb is empty. Lord, there is no one there any longer. God, out of that tomb came the risen Lord of Glory, the Saviour of our souls, the healer of our bodies; but more than that, He is the Lord of all. Lord, we ask right now that You would teach us, lead us into knowledge and wisdom, and cause our hearts to rejoice mightily in the power of the risen Christ, in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

I had a healing on the night that I preached this message. Four of us were on the way to Church, and we stopped to have a cup of coffee. We decided that since there were four of us, we would have a little communion with Jesus. We got a glass of water and a soda cracker, and we broke the cracker and blessed it, and thanked God that it was in remembrance of Jesus. We took the glass of water and I thanked God for it and remembered the blood of the covenant, took a drink of it and my voice just cleared right up. Amen! I want to tell you something, friends. We have a mighty God. We have a God that is able. Hallelujah!

I want you to look at **Matthew 26:36**:

***Mat 26:36** Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.*

There is a place in the Word of God called Gethsemane, and the literal translation of that in the Greek is the oil press, the place they pressed out the oil from the olives; and that place was going to be the place where God would allow the pressures and the powers of ALL the enemy to come against Jesus Christ. They were going to press Him until He was pressed and vexed sore of the spirit, until out of Him there would come great sweat drops of blood. But Jesus Christ endured that pressure and began to fight against the powers of darkness, not for Himself, but for you and me.

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He had to go to the garden of Gethsemane because it was God's ordained plan. He had to go there that He might overcome one thing, and that was His own will. He had to overcome His own will.

He had already overcome death when He raised Lazarus from the dead (**John 11:43-44**).

He had already overcome leprosy when He healed those ten who had leprosy (**Luke 17:12-14**). He had already overcome blindness when He gave sight to blind Bartimaeus (**Mark 10:46-52**). He had already overcome the things and the powers that had come against Him, but this was one thing that He had to overcome that He might finish the work that the Father had sent Him to do.

The Bible says in Matthew that He began to pray there, He began to seek after God, He began to wrestle with the power of hell. **Mark 14:33-34** says that He was sore amazed and very heavy, and His

soul was exceeding sorrowful unto death. If you read the three accounts in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, you will find that it was not a pretty picture. **Luke 22:42-44** says He was in great agony as He began to pray to the father. Man has made a picture of Jesus with His hands folded up very serenely, praying to the Father. He was doing more than praying to the Father in that garden. He was wrestling with all the powers of hell. He was wrestling against every force, every power, everything that could be against the human race. He had gone to that garden for one thing, and that was to settle it once and for all.

John 13:1-5 says that after He had given the disciples the last great supper, He washed their feet. Then He went to pray, to seek the Father's perfect guidance, and His disciples went with Him. Now remember, this was just after He had said, ***"The one that dippeth his hand with Me in the dish, the same shall betray Me"*** (**Matt. 26:23**). He knew His hour had come, and yet He went into that garden. He did not take it lightly. He did not say, "Why should I suffer all of this." He went to that garden and His disciples went with Him, but only three of them went a little farther. Peter, James, and John went a little farther, but look at it. He left them and went a little farther himself.

You see, Jesus Christ could take no man with Him into that place, there was no human man able to stand in the presence of what was going to happen in that human body in just a few short moments. He was going to have the reality of all the powers of hell come against Him. He was going to have the reality of looking in that cup, of looking at His fate. The word cup means fate in the Greek, and that fate that was certain to come upon Him, He looked at it, and He said, "It's going to come; it's going to come upon Me, and I am going to become sin. I am actually going to become sin."

Don't you realize that at that moment, possibly for the first time in His life as a human being, He knew exactly what was going to happen. He was going to become sin. It had all of a sudden hit Him in His heart and gripped His mind. He was going to become sin, He who knew no sin. He who hated sin. He who had always been faithful to the Father. He who created heaven and earth. All of a sudden here was this flesh body that He wore that was going to become sin. Friend, He looked at that fate that awaited him, and all the sin went before His eyes, all of the adultery, all of the iniquity, all of the lies, all of the stealing, all of the blasphemy, that He was going to become. He was going to become SIN that you and I might be made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

We don't see the true picture of Jesus; we don't see the great press that was taking place there. We don't see the forces that tried to stop Him. We don't see the powers of darkness that came against Him to defeat Him before He got to the cross. You see, Satan even tried to kill Him in the judgment hall. Somebody said he was beaten with 39 stripes. You'd better read it again. It doesn't say that. That was the custom of the law, but I believe He was beaten mercilessly. I believe that the powers of

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darkness were allowed to be unleashed against Him. He had to be able to stand in a human body that could feel pain, that could feel hunger, that could feel thirst, that could be tempted in all points even as we are, yet without sin. He had to feel every lash mark. He had to feel the spitting upon Him. He had to feel the thorns in that crown as it was pressed into His brow. He felt it all, and He was ripped wide open for you and me, my friend. Satan tried to kill him.

So in the garden, He came with His disciples, and they could not go to the presence that He was going into. He was going to drink of a cup that no man had ever drank of, or was ever able to drink of. He was going to walk into the very face of hell Himself. He was going into the very powers of darkness in that garden, but He had to go alone. He had to fight a battle that His disciples couldn't fight. He had to fight a battle that no man could handle. He had to fight a battle and His war kept coming up. He kept looking at the fate of what was going to happen to Him. He saw the judgment hall pass before

Him. He saw the cross pass before Him. He saw the forsaking of the Father pass before Him. He saw all the tragedies that were before Him in just a few short hours, and yet He began to wrestle against them. **Luke 22:44** says that He was under such duress, such power, and such pressure that He began to sweat great drops of blood which fell to the ground. When that blood began to come out of Him, Satan knew the end had come.

Doctors will tell you that it takes tremendous pressure to break the blood vessels and cause blood to come out of the pores of your skin. If there had not been anybody in there to wrestle with, He would have had no problems, but He was not only wrestling with His own will, He was wrestling against the powers that had predetermined to destroy mankind, that had predetermined to cause man to lose his rightful place in God. He had stood alone and He did battle in a human body against the powers of darkness.

Let me tell you, we have a Saviour; we have a Lord that loved us so much, He went in there as a human man. He did not go in there as God, He did not go in there as some divine person that did not know pain. He went in there as the son of man and the Son of God, who was able to feel when that blood began to trickle out of Him. A man who was able to feel the forgiveness that He was going to shortly be clothed with to forgive mankind. He could feel the tragedy of high treason being enacted against Him by one that had walked with Him for three years.

Let me ask you something. Was it worth it? Jesus thought it was worth it. He saw you in the garden. He saw you bound by the powers of darkness and sin. He saw you registered for hell. He saw there was only one hope, and He was it. He saw that there was only one human, there was only one man, there was only one who was righteous enough to die, and it was Jesus Christ. He looked at the powers of darkness, and He was in agony. He began to cry out. He began to wrestle against the powers of darkness, again looking at that cross on which shortly His flesh body would die, torn until men could not look upon it (Isaiah 53).

Matt 26:44 says that He went three times to pray. Most of us pray once and we give up, and if we have any kind of pressure against us, forget it. We don't have time. But Jesus Christ didn't stop. He didn't try to get somebody to go with Him. He had an appointment with destiny. He had a place on God's divine appointment calendar, that He would meet Satan head on, that He would defeat him, but He was going to wrestle every inch of the way. He was going to fight. He was going to absolutely take hold of the powers of darkness and demand a release for you and me.

I don't know about you; I know about me. If I had found out that one of my best friends had just betrayed me, if I had found out that my disciples had fallen asleep on me, if I had found out that my

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three closest disciples couldn't make it with me, and there I was in that garden with every ungodly thing you can mention gathered there, and their lives were in the balance of the outcome of that wrestling match, their very destiny was in the outcome, I don't know what I would have done. The cross would have never happened if He had not won in the garden. The price tag of Calvary would have never hung there had it not been for the garden.

The victory was in the garden. As Jesus began to sweat those drops of blood, as they began to break out through His body and began to saturate His clothing, the enemy began to lose his grip, he began to lose his hold, he began to lose your very soul. Hallelujah! He began to lose out; he began to be destroyed by Him that was able in a human body to walk into the presence of the enemy and face-to-face do combat with him.

Jesus, who knew no sin, would become sin. He had to know what He was dying for. He had to know it as a man, and not as God. He had to know because He was the Lamb of God. He was the Son of God, but He was the son of man. God could not die. There had to be found one born among men; there had to be one who was born of a virgin. There had to be one who could feel all the infirmities that you feel, a human being that could walk into the corridors of that garden of Gethsemane and lay hold of the powers of darkness. He had to wrestle His own mind, He had to wrestle His own heart, He had to wrestle His own will, until He finally would pray, "Father, if it is possible, if there is any other way, let this fate pass from Me; let this cup go another direction, but nevertheless, not My will but Thine be done."

He had to go three times to consecrate and dedicate His will to God. Once would have been more than I could have handled. Once would have been more than any mortal man could have handled, and yet there was a mortal man that day that walked into that garden. Three times He said, "***Not My will but Thine be done.***"

Gethsemane was not a pretty picture that night. Jesus was not a pretty sight to see when He came out of that garden. He had blood on Him. He had the first payment for sin already paid. It would be a journey from there to Calvary. It would be a journey that would take Him through the judgment hall. It would be a journey that would put Him on the cross. It would be a journey that would cause Him to go to a tomb; but if it had not been for Gethsemane, there would have been no cross, neither would there have been a judgment hall. If Jesus had not settled it that night in His own heart and in His own mind, it would not have ever happened. The cross would not have ever come if Jesus had looked at all that torment, and all the hell that He must go through, and saw that which He would pay for, and had turned His back on it and walked out and said, "Father, I'm coming home".

You and I would not have the opportunity of knowing eternal life, if it had not been for those great drops of blood, if it had not been for that wrestling match in the garden of Gethsemane, in the oil press, if it had not been where God pressed Him beyond all measure of human abilities, and out of Him would come the blood that was by pressure forced from Him. The Word of God is true. We have painted too light a picture of Jesus Christ the man. He went as a man and suffered as a man. He paid the price not as God, but as man. He died as a man. Hallelujah, He became a man. He was born in a flesh body. Oh, thank God for Jesus.

One of these days I believe God is going to let me go to Israel. I just want to see the garden. I want to bow down for just a minute in that garden and I want to say, "Lord, thank you. Thank You, Jesus." The greatest battle of eternity was in that garden almost two thousand years ago, where a mortal human being went into the very powers of darkness and wrestled with them, until the pressure

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became so great that out of His body came great sweat drops of blood. These pictures that the artists make of Him having His hands folded, and having such a sweet look on His face, are wrong. Friend, He was in there wrestling. He was in there fighting for us. He was in there redeeming our souls. That first drop of blood that broke His skin cried redemption. That first drop of blood that came forth on Him cried salvation. That first drop of blood that came out of Him cried healing. That first drop of blood that came out of Him cried restoration. That first drop of blood that came out of Him cried WHOLENESS!

There had to be a tremendous force of pressure come against Him, or it would never have happened that blood would have been able to come through the pores where sweat came. There had to be a literal breaking of the vessels in His body, because of the pressures upon Him. How much did He love you? He didn't do it for Himself. He came to wrestle as a man. He came to suffer and die as a man.

He came to take your name and redeem you from the curse of the law of sin and death.

He never entered Gethsemane for Himself. He was betrayed for you and me. He was sold out because He loved us. He was turned over to the hand of the enemy and He was only guilty of loving you and me. He went into that garden knowing that His hour had come, and now He was going to see in just a few short moments what His fate was going to be. He knew that He would die on the cross, but I believe that in that garden He saw for the first time, the sin and the iniquity and the filthiness of man that He would become. He had to die, but if He had never had Gethsemane, there would have never been a cross.

When I say I am a Christian, it is with reverence. When I say I belong to Jesus, it is with reverence. I saw the garden in my spirit. I saw the garden in my heart. I saw what He went through when He wrestled until there was literally nothing left of Him in His own strength; and not only did He go once, and not only twice, but three times He went, again and again and again, and proved His love not only for the Father, but He proved His love for you. He proved that He was willing to go, and to go, and to go until the job was done. He was willing to do battle with all the powers of hell until the job was finished. There was nothing there then after His defeating the enemy that was going to stop Him from going to Calvary.

How much does He love you? He loved you enough to lay His life down, but He did something more than that. He not only laid His life down, He defeated the powers that would take your life. Doesn't it get right down into your soul, into your spirit. Doesn't it get right down into your inner man, knowing that somebody loved you that much before you were ever born. You had a destiny appointed unto you of death, and one day you would die.

Let's look at **Eph 4:8-10**

Eph 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (9) (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? (10) He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

You were on your way, your name was inscribed, your name was there, you were on a calendar of eternity to face a judge one day without any hope, but out of glory came another. Out of the womb of Mary came a man, born of a virgin, conceived of the Holy Ghost, but a man who could feel what I feel. A man who could know what I know, a man who had a will that could go either way. But thank God, He brought that will into subjection, wrestled until there was no strength in Him; wrestled, and wrestled, and fought the powers of hell. In that olive press, in Gethsemane, in the place where they

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had squashed out olive oil out of olives, there was another battle, a battle of pressure so great that we cannot describe it. He went there for all of us.

You see, if we miss eternal life, it will be because we don't understand Gethsemane. It will be because we never knew this man Jesus. It will simply be because we neglected so great a salvation. It will simply be because we will not accept and acknowledge that the price that Jesus Christ paid for us in the garden was sufficient. Not once, not twice, but three times into the garden He went. He sweat great drops of blood to do battle with an enemy that had already laid claim to your soul. Did anybody ever love you like that?

He is probably the only man in history who got sentenced to death because He loved too much; probably the only man in all recorded history who was ever crucified because He loved too much.

There was no end to His love; the unsearchable dept of that love in that garden for us that day as a mortal man, a man who could feel, a man who could be touched, a man who could hurt, yet there was no price tag too great to be paid, there was no thought of defeat in His heart. He laid hold of victory and He snatched us from the very powers of hell, and He said, "They are mine, they are mine, they are mine. I will become whatever it takes. I will walk this fate, I will complete it, I will do it. I will do it, because without Me there will be no redemption. Without Me, the human race is lost forever."

Thank God for Gethsemane. Thank God for the love that poured out in that olive grove. Thank God for the love that ran through Gethsemane. Thank God that the enemy of our soul was defeated by the love of God. That love of God gave His Life, and the beginning of it was in Gethsemane, when the blood began to pour from His body from vessels that were ruptured for you and me. Being a Christian is not half bad when you see it in that light.

There is nothing really hard about being a Christian once you look at Gethsemane. There is nothing really too hard about being a Christian when you can see what He did for you there. When you can see a mortal man walk into the face of hell, walk into the face of the powers of darkness, and become whatever God wanted him to become to pay the price to redeem you and me, there can't be anything too hard about being a Christian.

It hasn't cost me a thing serving God. I traded in death for life. I traded in sickness for health. I traded in darkness for light. I traded in hell for eternity with Christ, but if it hadn't been for Gethsemane, I would have had nothing to trade and no power to trade it with. I would have lived and died, and hell would have been my reward. But thank God for a man named Jesus. Thank God for Gethsemane. Thank God for a man who was willing to take hold for us of every power and every judgment that was rightfully against us, and set it to nothing. Thank God for a man who was able to take the powers of darkness and destroy them as a man.

Somebody said to me one time, "Brother Krider, it's just sissy being a Christian." I said, "Look at Gethsemane some day. It was a real man who went there." That's the kind of man that I want to follow. I want to follow a man who doesn't have to take some kind of uppers or downers to get him psyched up enough to do his own living. I want to follow a man who has enough guts to take hold of Satan, hell, and the grave, face to face as a man and say, "I have defeated you." I want to follow that kind of a man.

There is only one man like that whom you can follow. His name is Jesus. There is only one way that you can come to Him. That's to repent and give your life to Jesus Christ. He fought for you because He loved you. I have determined in my heart to make it home. I have determined to sit with Him

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forever, and to thank Him for Gethsemane. I have asked God to let me go to Israel and see the garden, and then I can fly home and be happy. This is the only man who ever loved me and cared for me. This is the only one who was ever concerned about whether I would be lost or saved. He was the only one who could possibly defeat Satan, and set at nothing the powers of darkness.

If you don't have Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and you would like to start a new life with Him, I want to give you this opportunity right now to say, "Yes, Lord, I want to follow this man." If God is touching your heart, and you are saying, "Yes, Lord, I just love You so much. I want to accept Christ as my personal Savior," I want to pray for you.

"Father, in the name of Jesus, I thank you that Jesus Christ as a mortal man, in a body that could feel all things that we feel, Lord; could feel the tremendous pain and pressure in that garden of

Gethsemane, and yet not give up because there were souls that were in the eternal balance. Lord, that is the kind of a Saviour that I want to follow. Lord, I am extending that offer to any person who has enough desire to follow you. I am extending that invitation to any woman, any young man, any old man, any person regardless of age, regardless, God, of whether they are male or female. The call has gone out. Gethsemane has been paid for. The powers of darkness have been broken, and Lord, in the Name of Jesus, if there be one reading this who needs Your saving grace applied to their life, let them acknowledge their need for Christ, that they might be set free and loosed from the powers of darkness. Hallelujah! Thank You, Lord! Thank you Jesus!"

Pilate said, "I find no fault in Him. I find no fault in this man." I haven't either. I find no fault in this man. Oh, thank God! If you are saved, it is only because the war at Gethsemane was won by a man who loved you more than you can realize. When you see Him on that great day when He comes, you won't be looking for another. His beauty will outshine everything. His love will overwhelm you. His presence will be more than you can ever realize it to be. I hope in this study that you got just a small picture of what Jesus Christ the man did for you. I know that God must have touched your life. The Holy Spirit must have reached in and touched you. He reached into my heart and touched me.

"Father, in the name of Jesus, thank You. Thank You for Gethsemane. Thank you for the One who loved me that much. I cannot comprehend it, Lord. I can certainly not understand it, but it is true. It's real. It happened. God, I thank You for allowing me to take advantage of it. I thank You that my eternal destiny is not lost and undone, and to be burned forever, but my eternal destiny is to sit down with You at Your right hand, with pleasure forevermore. I cannot comprehend a God that wonderful, who could step out of a glorious setting of heaven, and take on a flesh body. Lord, who would take on a body that would even hurt as I could hurt, could hunger as I could hunger, thirst as I could thirst, feel pain as I can feel pain. I cannot comprehend it, Lord. It is too great and too wonderful for me, but I know it is true and I know it is real, and I know it has happened.

God, I want these, your people, to begin to see just how real and how true it really is, and how precious they are in the sight of the Lord, that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, would not stop until the work was done. He would not take His ease until He had defeated every foe and had triumphed over them. I thank You, and yet I do not know how to thank You. Lord, I do not have the words to thank You. I do not have the understanding of Gethsemane to thank You, but Lord, just help me to tell others. Help me Lord, to show them the Jesus, the Christ, the man who was able to love beyond anything I could comprehend tonight. Let our hearts be touched. Let there be a picture burned upon our minds and hearts of a love that we cannot understand or comprehend, but it is real, it is real."

Jesus did all of this for us. The least I can do is just thank Him. I don't know how to thank Him really,

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but I know He can give me the wisdom to tell others. Thank God, He didn't give up on me. Thank God, He kept working. Thank God, He kept fighting. Thank God, He kept ministering. Thank God, He never quit. He never stopped until the blood began to flow. Just Thank Him. Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, God. Hallelujah!